

# Oakland Community Preparedness & Response



## NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION AMID COVID-19



**Safe communities begin with well-organized neighborhoods. During this COVID-19 virus pandemic, neighbors can support and help each other while building a stronger and better-connected community.**



### What Does an Organized Neighborhood Look Like?

A typical organized neighborhood is made up of a block or two of connected streets (some may be larger) or perhaps all the units in an apartment building. An organized neighborhood has one or preferably more resident leaders/coordinators and keeps an **updated and secure roster** noting each resident's family members, phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information.



### Why Organize Your Neighborhood Now?

Organizing (or re-organizing) your neighborhood group can greatly improve safety by providing support for residents, and can help to overcome the effects of limited City resources. An organized neighborhood can address issues of concern when sheltering-in-place, such as:

- ❖ Staying in touch with and checking-in on each other via email, phone, social media and on-line conferencing
- ❖ Assisting those who may not be able to shop for themselves, for example elders and those without transportation
- ❖ Sharing needed supplies
- ❖ Distributing local information, for example nearby restaurants that are providing take-out and delivery
- ❖ Holding on-line neighborhood video conferences to connect and socialize virtually
- ❖ Checking-in on children while parents are working, if safe to do so



### Organizing Your Neighborhood During Shelter-in-Place Order

Organizing a neighborhood can still be done during social distancing restrictions. Of course neighbors should not meet in-person at this time, but the **organization can take place with one or more motivated residents** following these recommended steps:

- ❑ Identify the desired boundary of your neighborhood group
- ❑ Create a simple handout or flyer outlining the desire to organize the neighborhood, including your contact phone number and email address
- ❑ Email or drop off the flyer at the front door to as many neighbors as you can within your desired boundary
- ❑ As neighbors reply, add their contact information to your roster
- ❑ Select a method of communicating electronically with the group: an email list, Facebook page, Nextdoor sub-group, etc.
- ❑ Consider holding an on-line conference call (Zoom, Google Hangouts, etc.) to introduce everyone and to start discussing ways the group can begin to organize and to support and help each other
- ❑ Identify co-leaders/coordinators to assist
- ❑ Request volunteers who can become neighborhood helpers and pair them with those who need help
- ❑ Break any tasks into small activities that are doable by people with busy lives
- ❑ Agree that when safe again to do so, a neighborhood social event will be held!